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EXAMINER

NADAV, ORI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/840,125	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TING ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Ori Nadav	<b>Art Unit</b> 2811	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-19,21-24 and 26-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 29-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-19,21-24 and 26-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2008 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The amendments filed 12/22/2006, 4/24/2007 and 05/01/2009 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because they introduce new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: In paragraph [0025], as amended on 12/22/2006, the amendment "such that the notched spacer is thinner along the surface of the substrate, as illustrated in FIG. 1j," is a new matter.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to, because amended figure 1j, filed on 6/24/2008 introduces new matter. For example, in figure 1j, spacer layers 132 having thinner regions along sides of the gate electrode and the gate dielectric is a new matter.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is

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being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 24 and 26-28 are objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase “the surface of the substrate”, as recited in claim 24, should read “a surface of the substrate”. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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Claims 16-19, 21-24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

There is no support in the specification as filed, for the claimed limitations of “forming a notched spacer alongside the gate electrode sidewalls such that a thickness of the notched spacer extending alongside the gate electrode sidewalls has a first thickness in an upper portion and has a second lesser thickness thereby forming a notch in a lower portion of the notched spacer adjacent to the surface of the substrate”, as recited in claim 16, and for the claimed limitations of “having a second thickness less than the first thickness”, as recited in claim 24.

There is no support in the disclosure and in the drawings for the claimed limitations of “a lower portion at the corner formed between the surface of the substrate and the sidewall of the gate electrode is not covered by the mask”, as recited in claim 17.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 17-19, 24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claimed limitation of “a lower portion at the corner”, as recited in claims 17 and 24, is unclear as to which element the lower portion refers.

The claimed limitation of “the region of the substrate”, as recited in claim 24, is unclear as to whether the above region of the substrate is the same region formed **on** the substrate, or a different region. It is further unclear as to how a region formed on the substrate can be part of the substrate.

The claimed limitation of “the lower sidewall of the gate electrode”, as recited in claim 24, is unclear as to the structural relationship between the lower sidewall of the gate electrode and the claimed device.

The claimed limitation of “having a second thickness less than the first thickness”, as recited in claim 24, is unclear as to what is meant by, and in what respect, one thickness is **less** than another thickness.

The claimed limitation of “the sidewall of the gate electrode”, as recited in claim 24, is unclear as to the structural relationship between the sidewall of the gate electrode and the claimed device.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuegraf et al. (7,009,264) in view of Boissonnet et al. (7,015,105) or Nishinohara (6,911,705).

Regarding claims 16 and 23, Schuegraf et al. teach in figure 2D and related text a method of forming a semiconductor device, the method comprising:

- forming a gate electrode 211 having sidewalls on a region in a substrate, the region in the substrate having a first conductivity type;

- forming a notched spacer 221 alongside the gate electrode sidewalls such that a thickness of the notched spacer extending alongside the gate electrode sidewalls has a first thickness in an upper portion and has a second lesser thickness thereby forming a notch in a lower portion of the notched spacer adjacent to the surface of the substrate, the notched spacer comprising a single silicon nitride homogenous layer;

Schuegraf et al. do not teach performing a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode wherein the gate electrode and the notched spacer act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

Boissonnet et al. teach in figures 12 and 13 and related text performing a first ion implant 22 at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode 51 wherein the gate electrode 51 and the notched spacer 181 act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first

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conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

Nishinohara teach in figures 8 and 9 and related text (column 8, lines 52-63) performing a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions (halo region) beneath the gate electrode 4 wherein the gate electrode 4 and the notched spacer 20a act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode wherein the gate electrode and the notched spacer act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type in Schuegraf et al.'s device in order to operate the device in its intended use by simplifying the processing steps of making the device by using the device in a CMOS application (which requires first and second conductivity types implantations), and in order to reduce short channel effects and to adjust the threshold voltage of the device, respectively.

Regarding claim 21, Schuegraf et al. do not state that the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the



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substrate. Boissonnet et al. teach the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate.

Nishinohara teaches the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form prior art's step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate, in order to obtain proper doping distribution.

Regarding claim 22, Schuegraf et al. do teach the notched spacer comprising silicon dioxide. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a notched spacer comprising silicon dioxide in prior art's device in order to simplify the processing steps of making the device by using conventional isolating material, of which official notice is taken.

Claims 17-19, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuegraf et al., Boissonnet et al. and Nishinohara, as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Chen et al. (6,610,571).

Schuegraf et al., Boissonnet et al. and Nishinohara teach substantially the entire claimed structure, as applied to claim 16 above, except teaching the method of forming the notched spacer.

Chen et al. teach in figures 2-3 and related text a method of forming a spacer comprises forming a first layer 50 and a second layer 52, forming a mask out of

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the second layer on the first layer such that the upper portion of the first layer alongside the gate electrode is covered by the mask and a lower portion at the corner formed between the surface of the substrate and the sidewall of the gate electrode is not covered by the mask (see figure 3), etching the first layer 50 such that the portion of the first layer 50 along a surface of the substrate 10 next to the gate electrode 14 not covered by the mask is removed, and removing the mask (the portion of layer 52, as depicted in figure 4, which was used as a mask).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form prior art's spacer by forming a first layer and a second layer, forming a mask out of the second layer on the first layer such that the upper portion of the first layer alongside the gate electrode is covered by the mask and a lower portion at the corner formed between the surface of the substrate and the sidewall of the gate electrode is not covered by the mask, isotropically etching the first layer such that the portion of the first layer along a surface of the substrate next to the gate electrode not covered by the mask is removed, and removing the mask, in order to simplify the processing steps of making the device by using a conventional method.

Regarding claim 19, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a mask formed of silicon dioxide in prior art's device in order to simplify the processing steps of making the device by using conventional isolating material, of which official notice is taken.

Claims 16 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singh et al. (6,417,084) in view of Boissonnet et al. (7,015,105) or Nishinohara (6,911,705).

Regarding claims 16 and 22, Singh et al. teach in figures 6-11 and related text a method of forming a semiconductor device, the method comprising:

forming a gate electrode 70 on a substrate, the substrate 62 having a first conductivity type;

forming a notched spacer 74 alongside the gate electrode such that a thickness of the notched spacer alongside the gate electrode is thinner near the substrate, the notched spacer comprising silicon dioxide.

Singh et al. do not teach performing a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode wherein the gate electrode and the notched spacer act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

Boissonnet et al. teach in figures 12 and 13 and related text performing a first ion implant 22 at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode 51 wherein the gate electrode 51 and the notched spacer 181 act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

Nishinohara teach in figures 8 and 9 and related text (column 8, lines 52-63) performing a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant

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ions (halo region) beneath the gate electrode 4 wherein the gate electrode 4 and the notched spacer 20a act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode wherein the gate electrode and the notched spacer act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type in Singh et al.'s device in order to operate the device in its intended use by simplifying the processing steps of making the device by using the device in a CMOS application (which requires first and second conductivity types implantations), and in order to reduce short channel effects and to adjust the threshold voltage of the device, respectively.

Regarding claim 21, Singh et al. do not state that the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate. Boissonnet et al. teach the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate.

Nishinohara teaches the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate.

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It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form prior art's step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate, in order to obtain proper doping distribution.

Regarding claim 23, Singh et al. do teach the notched spacer comprising silicon nitride . It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a notched spacer comprising silicon nitride in prior art's device in order to provide better protection for the device.

Claims 17-19, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singh et al., Boissonnet et al. and Nishinohara, as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Chen et al. (6,610,571).

Singh et al., Boissonnet et al. and Nishinohara teach substantially the entire claimed structure, as applied to claim 16 above, except teaching the method of forming the notched spacer.

Chen et al. teach in figures 2-3 and related text a method of forming a spacer comprises forming a first layer 50 and a second layer 52, forming a mask out of the second layer on the first layer such that the upper portion of the first layer alongside the gate electrode is covered by the mask and a lower portion at the corner formed between the surface of the substrate and the sidewall of the gate electrode is not covered by the mask (see figure 3), etching the first layer 50 such that the portion of the first layer 50 along a surface of the substrate 10 next

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to the gate electrode 14 not covered by the mask is removed, and removing the mask (the portion of layer 52, as depicted in figure 4, which was used as a mask).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form prior art's spacer by forming a first layer and a second layer, forming a mask out of the second layer on the first layer such that the upper portion of the first layer alongside the gate electrode is covered by the mask and a lower portion at the corner formed between the surface of the substrate and the sidewall of the gate electrode is not covered by the mask, isotropically etching the first layer such that the portion of the first layer along a surface of the substrate next to the gate electrode not covered by the mask is removed, and removing the mask, in order to simplify the processing steps of making the device by using a conventional method.

Regarding claim 19, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a mask formed of silicon dioxide in prior art's device in order to simplify the processing steps of making the device by using conventional isolating material, of which official notice is taken.

Claims 24 and 26-28, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schuegraf et al. in view of Boissonnet et al., Nishinohara and Chen et al.

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Regarding claims 24, Schuegraf et al. teach in figures 2-11 and related text a method of forming a semiconductor device, the method comprising:

- forming a gate electrode 70 in a region on a substrate, the region of the substrate having a first conductivity type;

- forming a first layer having a first thickness over the substrate and the gate electrode;

- forming a second layer over the first layer;

- etching the first layer to form a notched spacer in the first layer having a second thickness less than the first thickness wherein the spacer mask acts as a mask, and wherein the etching removes at least a portion of the uncovered first layer along a surface of the substrate and in the corner formed by the sidewall of the gate electrode and the surface of the substrate, thereby forming a notch in the notched spacer formed of silicon nitride in the corner formed by the sidewall of the gate electrode and the surface of the substrate (see figures 9-12);

Schuegraf et al. do not teach the method of forming the notched spacer, and performing a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode wherein the gate electrode and the notched spacer act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

Boissonnet et al. teach in figures 12 and 13 and related text performing a first ion implant 22 at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode 51 wherein the gate electrode 51 and the notched spacer 181 act

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as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

Nishinohara teach in figures 8 and 9 and related text (column 8, lines 52-63) performing a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions (halo region) beneath the gate electrode 4 wherein the gate electrode 4 and the notched spacer 20a act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type.

Chen et al. teach in figures 2-3 and related text a method of forming a spacer comprises forming a first layer 50 having a first thickness over the substrate and the gate electrode; forming a second layer 52 over the first layer; removing a portion of the second layer such that a spacer mask 52 (figure 3) is formed on the first layer on a side of the gate electrode, an upper portion of the first layer remaining covered by the spacer mask and a portion of the first layer along the surface of the substrate and extending up the lower sidewall portion of the gate electrode being exposed; etching the first layer to form a notched spacer in the first layer having a second thickness less than the first thickness wherein the spacer mask acts as a mask, and wherein the etching removes at least a portion of the uncovered first layer along a surface of the substrate and in the corner formed by the sidewall of the gate electrode and the surface of the substrate, thereby forming a notch in the notched spacer in the corner formed by the



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sidewall of the gate electrode and the surface of the substrate; and removing the spacer mask.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form Schuegraf et al.'s spacer by a method comprises forming a first layer having a first thickness over the substrate and the gate electrode; forming a second layer over the first layer; removing a portion of the second layer such that a spacer mask is formed on the first layer on a side of the gate electrode, an upper portion of the first layer remaining covered by the spacer mask and a portion of the first layer along the surface of the substrate and extending up the lower sidewall portion of the gate electrode being exposed; isotropically etching the first layer to form a notched spacer in the first layer having a second thickness less than the first thickness wherein the spacer mask acts as a mask, and wherein the etching removes at least a portion of the uncovered first layer along a surface of the substrate and in the corner formed by the sidewall of the gate electrode and the surface of the substrate, thereby forming a notch in the notched spacer in the corner formed by the sidewall of the gate electrode and the surface of the substrate; and removing the spacer mask, and

to perform a first ion implant at an oblique angle to the substrate so as to implant ions beneath the gate electrode wherein the gate electrode and the notched spacer act as masks during the first ion implant, the first ion implant using ions of the first conductivity type, and performing one or more second ion implants using ions of a second conductivity type in Schuegraf et al.'s device in

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order to operate the device in its intended use by simplifying the processing steps of making the device by using conventional processing steps, in order to use the device in a CMOS application (which requires first and second conductivity types implantations), and in order to reduce short channel effects and to adjust the threshold voltage of the device, respectively.

Regarding claim 26, Schuegraf et al. do not state that the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate. Boissonnet et al. teach the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate.

Nishinohara teaches the step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form prior art's step of performing one or more second ion implants is performed at an angle normal to a surface of the substrate, in order to obtain proper doping distribution.

Regarding claims 27 and 28, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a first layer formed of silicon dioxide and a second layer formed of silicon nitride in prior art's device in order to simplify the processing steps of making the device by using conventional etching stop material and isolating material, of which official notice is taken.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to the 112 rejections were adequately addressed in previous office action. Applicant is invited to contact the examiner if applicant believes that a telephone interview will advance the prosecution of the case.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16-19, 21-24 and 26-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ori Nadav whose telephone number is 571-272-1660. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7 AM to 4 PM (Eastern Standard Time) Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Gurley can be reached on 571-272-1670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

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217-9197 (toll-free).

O.N.  
7/10/2009

/ORI NADAV/  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800